

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I am going to support the nomination of Mayor Marty Walsh to be the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Now, why is a guy from North Carolina here to encourage my colleagues to vote for the mayor of Boston, MA? Well, it is quite simple. Mayor Walsh has the background and skills and the awareness for the need of balance in conversations between labor and management.

He has been a mayor; he has been a State representative; and he has also been a union leader. The Department of Labor serves an immensely important role in our economy and in the lives of the American people. Especially in the midst of a pandemic, with unemployment at 6.7 percent and 12.6 million Americans unemployed, this is a job that needs filling.

But our Nation can't have a Labor Secretary that will ever be accused of being in cahoots with labor or beholden to management. I have made it clear that the Labor Secretary's job is to play a balanced role and to confront both, when necessary, for the protection of the rank-and-file workers.

Mayor Walsh emphasized during his nomination hearing that he wanted to work with us collaboratively to help the American workers improve and expand opportunities. He respects the importance of job creators and the need for better coordination of numerous job training programs.

Mayor Walsh is committed to making sure commerce and labor work cooperatively. He stated that the workers in a representation election have the right to listen to both sides. Mayor Walsh agreed to be responsive to our oversight requests and to keep us updated on his plans and departmental actions.

Now, we won't agree on everything, but we should be able to find places that we can agree, in a bipartisan way, to move forward. I support the nomination of Mayor Marty Walsh, and I look forward to working with him. I encourage my colleagues to support this nomination as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON WALSH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Walsh nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 29, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 127 Ex.]

##### YEAS—68

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Burr	Hoeven	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Tuberville
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	

##### NAYS—29

Barrasso	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lummis	Shelby
Daines	McConnell	Thune
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Hagerty	Paul	Young
Hawley	Risch	

##### NOT VOTING—3

Blackburn	Murkowski	Toomey
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN GOODROW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, all of us have been sent here by the people of our States to represent them. I have always felt a true measure of the quality of our service is reflected in the kind of people we hire to help us do these awe-

some jobs. The people in our State offices, on our frontlines, are critical in this effort.

John Goodrow is one such public servant. I hired him in 1987 from his job at a local radio station. John brought his radio voice and Vermont sensibility. He has a great sense of humor and could see the challenges, frustrations, and occasional absurdities of everyday life in a Senate office. This was coupled with a determination to serve all Vermonters.

On March 4 of this year, John Goodrow marked 34 years as a loyal and dedicated service. With deep appreciation and respect and more than a little bit of sadness, I recently informed my staff that John has decided to retire on March 31.

At the age of 25, John came to my office scheduling appointments and events, and serving as my on-the-ground Vermont press secretary. He clipped news items in a time when they were actually cut and copied from newspapers, and John loved his typewriter. It was just a few years ago that he reluctantly let go of the typewriter in his office. Staff may have even spirited it away when he wasn't there.

He understood the importance of my travel throughout our State to meet with Vermonters, and in his bones, he knew it how meaningful it was for Marcelle and me to be home at our farmhouse in Middlesex.

He fielded the scores of scheduling requests that came to my office. And later, as my deputy State director, he has helped in overseeing an exceptionally skilled and dedicated staff.

What I also treasured was how direct John could be with me. When something was wrong, he let me know. If I was reluctant to do something he deemed important, he made his case. In our jobs, we are frequently surrounded by people who are too quick to flatter. That was never a problem with John and something I always valued.

John has been a valuable resource and coach to countless staff members and interns over the years. His institutional memory, his good judgment and steadiness of purpose, and his connections to Vermonters across our State are unmatched. His droll sense of humor, including practical jokes, and his gifted storytelling can take you back many years, including back to every one of my campaigns. And his empathy and compassion for others is a gift.

Marcelle and I value John's friendship, his loyalty, and his dedication to helping those in need. We have watched his family grow and prosper as he and Mary Ellen raised their two boys, Joe and Jamie.

While we will miss his booming voice when we walk down the hall of the Burlington office, we will take comfort in knowing that voice will continue to be heard at Centennial Field as baseball season begins anew.

Marcelle and I congratulate John for all he has accomplished, we commend

him for his service to Vermont, and we thank him for his friendship and loyal service to our State. We will miss our daily interactions with him, but we are grateful that he forever will be part of the Leahy family.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORNELIA DOZIER COOPER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Kentucky is home to many talented artists. They capture our heritage with color, movement, and language. Their creativity offers inspiration and makes us proud to call the Bluegrass home. Today, I would like to recognize my friend Cornelia Dozier Cooper, one of these gifted Kentuckians, who continues to awe our Commonwealth with her vision, generosity, and leadership. Cornelia was recently recognized by her hometown with a Distinguished Community Service Award. It is a privilege to join her many fans in sharing my hearty congratulations.

Cornelia moved to Pulaski County in Southeastern Kentucky six decades ago. Instantly, in her words, she “fell in love.” The breathtaking landscapes fill her imagination and fuel her art. Cornelia skillfully captures the region’s beauty and the distinct character of its people in her watercolor. She brings joy and appreciation to all those who have viewed her work. I am proud to count myself among them. In 2019, Cornelia received the Milner Award, our Commonwealth’s highest artistic honor, in tribute to her mastery of the brush and her devotion to her craft.

Kentucky’s traditions are reflected in Cornelia’s artwork as well as in her philanthropy and service. She has helped found and continues to support numerous local organizations to foster artistic expression. After receiving a donation of books from the Carnegie Library, Cornelia knocked on doors around Somerset to gather support for the area’s first library. Her own endowment provides grants to aspiring performers and artists in the Lake Cumberland area. As an enthusiastic mentor and a compassionate friend, Cornelia has singlehandedly led a new generation of budding artists to find their own inspiration in the hills of Southeastern Kentucky.

Even beyond the brush, Cornelia has brought beauty to her community. In Somerset’s Fountain Square—which hosts a statue of Cornelia’s brother-in-law, Kentucky Senator John Sherman Cooper—she has taken personal responsibility for planting flowers and leading renovations. She is driven to make the square a source of collective pride. Cornelia’s influence on the local creative community is difficult to overstate, and it will continue for years to come.

My friend continues to create well into her nineties. She has lifted this entire community with grace and art. It is a privilege to once again thank Cornelia for sharing her talents across

Kentucky. She has earned this award and our sincere praise. I encourage all my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Cornelia Cooper on a lifetime of distinction and success.

#### CONFIRMATION OF XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, on March 18, I voted against the confirmation of Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. Mr. Becerra has no substantive experience in public health policy, and he has proven himself to be an extremist on the few occasions he has engaged on health care issues. In October 2017, he told FOX News, “I’ve been a supporter of Medicare for All for the 24 years that I was in Congress.” As attorney general of California, he filed over 100 lawsuits against the Trump administration, including leading a group of attorneys general in opposing Texas’s legal challenge to Obamacare in *Texas v. Azar*. He also won lawsuits to reclassify gig economy companies like Uber and Lyft as employers. In response, California’s Prop 22 was drafted, with a description saying it “changes employment classification rules for app-based transportation and delivery workers.” Becerra’s office, which has authority to summarize ballot measures, seemingly tried to sabotage Prop 22 by changing its summary to say it “exempts app-based transportation and delivery companies from providing employee benefits to certain drivers and delivery workers.” Californians passed Prop 22 anyway, with over 58 percent support.

Mr. Becerra’s history suggests he will use this Cabinet post for political activism, not for advancing our Nation’s public health. For that reason, I opposed his confirmation.

#### REMEMBERING JUSTICE LORENE B. FERGUSON

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize the lifetime of service and historic contributions of Navajo Nation Supreme Court Justice Lorene B. Ferguson, who died on March 1, 2021, with her daughters at her bedside, from complications of COVID-19.

Justice Ferguson was the first woman justice on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. In 2001, she was nominated to serve as Associate Justice by President Kelsey Begaye and was confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council. She served as an Associate Justice on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court until 2007, including as Acting Chief Justice from 2004 to 2005.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Ferguson served as a Navajo circuit judge in the Kayenta District Court and as a Navajo Tribal Court judge in the Shiprock, To’haiilee, Ramah, and Alamo Courts. She also served for 8 years as a staff attorney at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, where she drafted the first Navajo Election Code and Navajo

scholarship policy for the Department of Education.

Justice Ferguson was born in the Sawmill, Ní’ii Jí’ih, Chapter of the Navajo Nation in the Fort Defiance Agency in Arizona. She graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1965. She worked in community development, welfare rights, and Native American education as a Head Start teacher and Indian education training technician. She began her legal career after graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1983.

Justice Ferguson served as a mentor and role model for numerous Navajo attorneys and law clerks. She was a strong advocate for education and Tribal traditional law. She served as a judicial education faculty member for the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada in Reno and was the first Tribal judge to serve as a judge in residence at the University of Tulsa School of Law. She frequently spoke at law schools around the country to educate students and faculty on the importance of Tribal law.

Justice Ferguson was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and matriarch for her family. My thoughts are with all of her loved ones and all those who were touched by her life during this time of loss.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DAN ALPERT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize over two decades of dedication and service to New Mexico from Dr. Dan Alpert, my senior legislative assistant, who is retiring after a distinguished career in the U.S. Senate.

A dedicated public servant, Dr. Alpert began his career as a nuclear engineer at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, working on nuclear power, renewable energy, and energy efficiency programs for 20 years.

In 1997, Dr. Alpert took his extensive experience at Sandia to Capitol Hill for a 1-year fellowship sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS, in the office of my predecessor, Senator Jeff Bingaman. Since then, Dr. Alpert has served the people of New Mexico in the U.S. Senate for more than two decades.

Dr. Alpert’s dedication to New Mexico and expertise has been instrumental in steering my legislative priorities on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Dr. Alpert’s distinguished career includes leadership in energy storage research and development, cutting-edge energy transmission planning, and careful oversight and stewardship of our Nation’s nuclear laboratories and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. While he probably did not plan on it when he was earning his nuclear engineering Ph.D., Dr. Alpert also served as a longtime and well-respected agriculture and infrastructure expert in Senator Bingaman’s office.

Anyone who has ever worked with Dr. Alpert also knows that his policy